Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A koji mold belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor or Penicillium, the proteolytic acitivity of which is not carbon repressed.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1, wherein the creA gene does not exert its inherent function.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 2, wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1 which is Aspergillus oryzac I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A koji mold according to claim 1 wherein the areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method of producing proteolytic enzymes, comprising cultivating a koji mold belonging to the genus belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor, or Penicillium, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the creA gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional in a suitable growth medium in the presence of a carbon source under conditions that the mold expresses proteolytic enzymes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for hydrolyzing protein-containing materials comprising the ~~steps~~ step of ~~using~~ providing to said protein-containing materials a Koji mold belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor, or Penicillium, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein ~~the~~ a creA gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, in combination with at least an enzyme or a microorganism providing a prolidase activity.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the creA gene has been deleted.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the koji mold is Aspergillus oryzae I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 wherein the areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6 including the step of isolating the enzymes in the form of a concentrate.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the creA gene is not transcribed to a mRNA capable to be translated to a functional polypeptide.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the creA gene has been deleted.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7 wherein the koji mold is Aspergillus oryzae I-2165 (NF14).

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7 wherein ~~the~~ an areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preparing a protein hydrolysate comprising the steps of hydrolyzing a proteinaceous material with a koji mold belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor, or Penicillium, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein ~~the~~ a creA gene has been mutated such that the gene produced thereof is essentially non-functional.